Life in These Parts

A Prayer for Tom Frissell
God of all mankind, Creator of the Universe
We thank you for this day in Hawai'i-nei.
We thank you for this occasion: a celebration
Of Tom's life, for having known Tom as a friend.
A cantankerous friend, a kind and generous friend.
This was the noblest fisherman of them all.
This was a giant of a man.
This was an Ahi among Menpachi.
Tom is now for the ages. No one quite like him.
Will walk the face of the earth or sail the
Seven seas, FOREVER MORE.

Best his memory will linger with us
With a smile on our lips
With a twinkle in our eyes
With a twinge in our hearts.
We rejoice that he is in the company of Capt. Bill, Pres. Mr. Mahi, Mr. Ahi, Mr. Uhu, Mr. Paka,
May the wine there be vintage and overflowing
May the sashimi be fresh and plentiful
May the chops be thick and tasty.
Help us remember that he was your gift to us.
Help us keep his memory precious as we return his ashes to you, remembering that we,
In the not too distant future,
Will be joining Tom in your Happy Fishing Grounds.
This we pray.

The Duchess
(Condensed version from Stitches July-August 1997)
The subject of the day was “Limericks” at a nursing home activities session. A very quiet withdrawn lady resident who rarely spoke a word, put up her hand and began to recite:
“I sat with the duchess at tea;
She was gracious as gracious could be,
But her rumbplings abdominal
Were something phenomenal,
And everyone thought it was me!”

The Nervous Mountie
(A very condensed version of a Stitches story by Robbie Newton Drummond MD)
Daniel Dumas was the true general surgeon who could and did everything. He knew gynecology and urology and plastics. He could drill bullet holes and anastomose the ends of resected bowels. Daniel had been in every major conflict in WWII. He’d trained in France, and alas although his grammar was unimpeachable, his accent was an atrocious blend of Hercule Poirot and Inspector Clouseau.
A frightened, burly 6 ft. 3” Royal Canadian Mountie needed a vasectomy. The procedure went smoothly and painlessly and Daniel used eau de cologne to close the final layer. In a benighted effort to placate the patient, he leaned over the drape with his masked face and said matter of factly: “Zee nuts fall off in ten days.”
The patient bolted upright, the whites of his horrified eyes filled my field of vision. I grabbed his shoulders, locked my gaze with his and translated: “The knots, the knots will fall off in ten days.”

Anecdotes
A young man from the outback decides to get some learning in Sydney. He meets a hooker in a bar and they go up to a hotel room. He starts to run around in the room. First he grabs the dresser and throws it out the window. A few minutes later, he picks up the bed and throws it out the balcony. The hooker asks in astonishment: “What’s happening?”
The young man replies, “Never been with a woman before. If it’s anything like being with a kangaroo, we need lots of room.”
(As told by Jon Isenberg, Professor of Medicine, UC San Diego lecturing at the 7th Annual Hawaii Gastroenterology Symposium at Kahala Mandarin on Sat. Aug. 23. Jon explained that he needs “lots of room” to discuss NSAIDS and Helicobacter Ulcers)

Uncle Dick noticed that everything he ate chills, his favorite food, his foot would pain him that evening. The family doctor confirmed his suspicion that it was pork-induced gout. When he returned from the doctor’s, his aunt asked him how the appointment had gone. Uncle Dick plopped down on the sofa, kicked off his shoes and replied, “the doctor said I’m going to have gout about three times a week.” (Reader’s Digest September 1997)

The Latest News on Gerd
(Keith Tolman MD; Chief of Endoscopy at University of Utah; Dinner lecture at Pacific Cafe Oahu, August 7)

Rules in Medicine
1. Above all, do no harm
2. Cover your ass

Re Behavioral Modification
“The only reason I would take up jogging
That I can hear heavy breathing again.”
Erma Bombeck

Re Sucralfate
Two questions you never ask at a meeting
1. How does sucralfate work?
2. What are the ingredients in German sausage?

Esophagitis Therapy
“Step up approach is a product of marketing.
It’s biologic nonsense. The proton pump inhibitors are better for all grades of esophagitis. We can heal esophagitis, but the relapse rate is 70%.
Reflux is a chronic disease. Continuous treatment is necessary.

Re Proton Pump Inhibitor
Give it in the morning 1/2 hr before breakfast.

GERD
It is a lifetime disease requiring lifetime medication. 79% of patients improve on therapy. Surgery is not curative. We need to reevaluate the role of surgery in GERD: viz Laporoscopic fundoplication vs proton pump inhibitor.

The Last Rule of Medicine
“Never ask a surgeon if you need an operation.”
Likewise: “Never ask a gastroenterologist if you need endoscopy.”
Step-down therapy is also a marketing strategy. Maintenance therapy for GERD is full dose daily therapy.

Goals of Maintenance Therapy for GERD
• Improve quality of life
• Prevent complications
• Safety
• Cost effectiveness

“The best therapy is the therapy that works.”
“The most expensive therapy is therapy that doesn’t work.”
Yogi Berra said, “Predictions are always dangerous, especially about the future.”

Miscellany
Paddy had just arrived in New York from Ireland and was invited by one of his American cousins to go to his first baseball game. Seated in the Yankee Stadium bleachers, he watched as a man swung a stick, hit a ball and started toward a white bag. Everyone stood up and yelled, “Run, run!”
A second guy came up to the plate, whacked the ball and started toward the white bag. Everyone stood again and yelled, “Run, run!”
A third batter came up, but this one didn’t hit the ball. He didn’t even swing. Four times the pitcher pitched, four times the catcher caught. Paddy was completely confused when the batter dropped the stick and started strolling toward the white bag.
“Run, run!” Paddy shouted.
“No, he doesn’t have to run,” his cousin informed him. “He’s got four balls.” Paddy’s eyes widened as he stood. “Walk with pride, man!” he shouted. “Walk with pride!”
(From Playboy April 1997)

Chemists synthesize marvelous chemicals these days. There is the story that one synthesized an aphrodisiac for men that is so powerful that it had to be swallowed very quickly to avoid a stiff neck.
classified notices

To place a classified notice:
HMA members.—Please send a signed and typewritten ad to the HMA office. As a benefit of membership, HMA members may place a complimentary one-time classified ad in HMJ as space is available.
Nonmembers.—Please call 536-7702 for a nonmember form. Rates are $1.50 a word with a minimum of 20 words or $30. Not commissionable. Payment must accompany written order.

Office Space

Lilliha Medical Bldg.—Share a 1,397 sq. ft. medical office with free visitor parking. Call Chaney, Brooks & Company, 544-9557.
Surgeon looking to share an office.—in the Queen's POB I or II. Fax information to 951-5538.

Locum Tenens

Locum Tenens available.—Board-certified family practice, 14 yrs clinical experience in Hawaii. Office coverage, Deborah C. Love MD; home Oahu: (808) 637-8611; cell ph: (808) 295-2770.

Take an Afternoon Off.—While your office stays open. Part-time primary care office coverage on a regular or occasional basis by longtime Honolulu physician. Contact John Wichmann-Walczak MD at 739-9483 or 524-2575.

Wanted: Locum Tenens position.—Board-certified family practitioner with considerable experience in locum tenens work. Desires position for 1 or 2 or more weeks. Call Kit Glover 668-7337 or the phy Ex 524-2575.

Business Opportunity

Veteran Certified Petroleum Geologist.—Wishes to team up with oil and gas investment capital finder. Excellent remuneration. (614) 453-9231 or fax (614) 450-7507.

what it’s all about.”
In 1994, Eugene was named “Mr. Gourmet of the Year” by the Society of Bacchus America, an elite New Orleans wine and food club.

Health Briefs
(Pacific Business News, Oct. 6, 1997)
The Physician Compensation and Production Survey 1997 Report by Medical Group Management Association summarizes the incomes of 30,000 physicians as follows:
During the period 1992 to 1996: Primary physicians’ income rose 17%, Specialists’ income rose 5.5%.
Four specialties, ophthalmology, neurology, anesthesiology and pulmonary medicine reported a 2% income loss and work increase of 18%.

Announcement

General Practice Opened.—In Kapahulu area by 20-year veteran of St. Francis ER. New patients welcomed; free parking; convenient hours; house calls (downtown Honolulu-Ala Ha'ina). John Wichmann-Walczak MD at 750 Palani Avenue, Honolulu 96816. 739-9483.

Misc.

Latex Glove Relief.—Latex glove sensitivity protectant spray, immediate reduction of Type I irritation from latex gloves, duration 100+ hand washes/48/16 hrs. Free evaluation sample to USA/ Apo address physicians. Limited time, 1 sample per office. Other products: Scalp Itch Reducer gel and Skin Itch Reducer gel, soothing relief, duration varies from 8-48 hrs, results vary per individual. Sahara Cosmetics, (808) 735-8061, PO Box 10669, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-0669, USA, leave name on answering machine or send letterhead or business card to above address.

Opioid Analgesics.—Appropriate use vs Abuse seminar coming to Maui Waikapu Country Club on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 5 pm and to Kauai Marriott on Nov. 20 also starting at 5 pm. This outstanding seminar, with 3 speakers from the mainland, was a big hit on Oahu and the Big Island. Watch for special mailing. Mark your calendar now. This seminar will be made possible by an educational grant from Knoll Pharmaceutical Co. Invited to attend are physicians, nurses, pharmacists and dentists.

For Sale

Misc for Sale.—Desk 60" x 30" $50; Credenza 71" x 18" $100, Xerox Model 5309, 1 yr old, $252. Ask for Nelson 536-7702.

Wanted

HMA employees.—Looking for a good physician-type scale for monitoring our weight. If you have one you’d like to donate, please call or bring to HMA office. Mahalo!
Two professionals seeking.—3/4 bedroom, 2 bath house to rent. Prefer peaceful setting. Dependable, no pets, no children. Call 737-4217 (bus ph).